

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

Panhandle Region

Wolves found north of I-90 in this region are part of the NWMT Recovery Area and are classified as endangered. Wolves south of I-90 along the southern boundary of this region are within the CID recovery area and are classified as nonessential experimental animals.

There were 5 documented resident, 2 suspected resident, and 6 documented border packs (three tallied for Idaho and three tallied for Montana) in the Panhandle Region in 2007 (Figure 6; Table 2). Four of the 8 documented Idaho packs (Avery, Calder Mountain, Fishhook, and Marble Mountain) produced litters, but only the Fishhook pack qualified as breeding pair. Litter production and breeding pair estimates were minimums as manpower and field season timing were insufficient to adequately survey all known Panhandle Region packs. The Calder Mountain and Solomon Mountain border packs shared time between Idaho and Montana, and were counted as Idaho packs, while the De Borgia, Silver Lake, and Superior packs were counted by Montana. The Boundary pack moved between Idaho and Canada.

Numerous observations of wolves or wolf sign have been reported in areas of the Panhandle Region where known wolf packs have not been documented. Reports indicated the recurring presence of wolves in the Coeur d'Alene Mountains, the eastern (near Priest Lake) and western (Pack River & southern Purcell Mountain ranges) portions of Big Game Management Unit 1. Observation reports have been received from additional areas of the Panhandle Region though not in a recurring fashion that would lead investigators to believe the persistent presence of wolves. Future monitoring will be conducted to determine the status of wolf activity in these areas of the Panhandle Region.

No documented or probable wolf-caused livestock losses occurred, although 1 domestic calf was confirmed to have been injured.

Law Enforcement Summary

Conservation Officers investigated or responded to 7 reports involving wolves. The carcasses of 2 dead wolves were recovered for which the causes of death were not determined. A road-killed wolf was recovered from I-90 approximately 3 miles (5 km) east of the city of Wallace, Idaho, and another reported road-killed wolf turned out to be a domestic dog. Regional IDFG staff recovered the radio-collars of 2 wolves that appeared to have been illegally killed. An IDFG Officer investigated the death of a domestic dog that was traveling with its owner in a remote area known to have significant wolf activity. The dog's death was later determined to have been caused by strychnine poisoning.

Documented Resident Packs

Avery

Four adults and 1 pup were observed by IDFG personnel in September 2007. In April 2007, an IDFG Conservation Officer recovered the carcass of a dead wolf in Hammond Creek that was likely a member of the Avery pack. The cause of death was unknown. Trapping efforts in September 2007 resulted in the radiocollaring of 1 gray pup, B357, which was discovered on mortality mode in late October and determined to have been illegally killed. Adult male B234

was the only marked wolf in this pack. The Avery pack was likely responsible for the deaths of 2 mountain lion pursuit hounds along the eastern edge of their home range and 2 pet Pyrenees pups on the southern edge of their range during 2007; none of these were verified or reported by WS personnel and therefore are not reported here. While reproduction was verified, this pack did not qualify as a breeding pair.

Fishhook

Program personnel determined the presence of 4 adults and 2 pups during September 2007 while investigating rendezvous sites. An aerial survey in November observed 8 wolves (official pack count). Two radiocollared wolves, female B217 and male B294, remained in this pack. This pack was considered a breeding pair for 2007.



Female B217 of the Fishhook pack sleeping near the pack's rendezvous site.
Nate Borg

Five Lakes Butte

The sole radiocollared member of this pack, female B212 was monitored outside of the pack's normal home range during 2007 and was considered a disperser. B212 was located in the North Fork St. Joe River (approximately 35 miles [56 km] northeast of Five Lakes Butte) in September. There were reports of wolf sign in upper Chamberlin Creek and upper Vanderbilt Creek, areas within the traditional Five Lakes Butte home range, over summer 2007, but the status of this pack was unknown. The carcass of 1 wolf that died of unknown causes was recovered. This pack was not considered a breeding pair and there was no estimate of pack size.

Marble Mountain

Program personnel captured and collared an adult female wolf (B314) in September 2006 bringing the number of marked wolves in this pack to two, including previously marked male B216. In 2007, female B360 was instrumented with a radiocollar as well. During trapping operations, a minimum of 4 adult gray wolves and 1 gray pup were observed. This reproductive pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Tangle Creek

The Tangle Creek pack was considered a Panhandle Region pack despite spending some time in the Clearwater Region as well. At the beginning of 2007, the Tangle Creek pack contained 2 radiocollared wolves, males B310 and B311. Monitoring efforts throughout the summer were

unsuccessful with the exceptions of locations of B310 in July and September in upper Floodwood Creek in the Clearwater Region. In late October the signal from B311 was discovered on mortality mode in the upper reaches of Dworshak Reservoir. The collar was recovered in November by the Clearwater County Sheriff's dive team and was determined to be an illegal kill. The signal from B310 was found on live mode approximately 0.25 mile (0.4 km) southeast from the mortality signal. An abundance of additional wolf sign was noted adjacent to the mortality site. Two wolves, the official pack count, were observed from an aerial survey of the area in December 2007. This pack was not counted as a breeding pair.

Documented Border Packs

Boundary (ID)

This border pack was tallied to Idaho for 2007. In spring 2007, the only marked member of the Boundary pack (female B296) was discovered with the newly documented Solomon Mountain pack. Program personnel surveyed the traditional Boundary pack area in September 2007 and determined the presence of at least 2 wolves, but were unable to mark any animals or quantify the pack size. In May 2007, a domestic calf was injured near Hall Mountain and designated "probable wolf related" by WS, but the calf survived its injuries and did not constitute a wolf depredation. In early December 2007, WS' personnel found the remains of a domestic calf (cause of death undetermined) that had been consumed by wolves and noted tracks indicating the presence of 5 wolves in the vicinity of Hall Mountain. The Boundary pack was considered a documented border pack (US/Canada border) but was not counted as a breeding pair.

Calder Mountain (ID)

This border pack was tallied for Idaho in 2007. This pack was first documented in 2005; however, to date no wolves have been radiocollared. The Calder Mountain pack was considered a Panhandle Region border pack based on den and rendezvous site locations and spent time in both Idaho and Montana. Program personnel discovered rendezvous sites and tracks indicating at least 3 adults and 1 pup in September (official counts), although a report of 4 pups was unverified. The Calder Mountain pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

De Borgia (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied by Montana in 2007. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Silver Lake (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied by Montana. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Solomon Mountain (ID)

This border pack was tallied for Idaho in 2007. The Solomon Mountain pack was discovered by monitoring female B296, originally a member of the Boundary pack. Program personnel monitored the radio signal at a likely den site in spring 2007 although no verification was accomplished. During summer, fall, and early winter 2007, the Solomon Mountain pack was located numerous times on both sides of the Idaho/Montana border by a MTFWP bear researcher. He had several visual observations of the pack, as many as 8 wolves, but could not determine the presence of pups. In December 2007, the signal from B296 was discovered on mortality mode. This wolf was originally captured by black bear research personnel in August 2006 and fitted with a radiocollar that incorporated a cotton spacer designed to decompose and

release the collar. It was assumed that the radiocollar was detached as designed in December. The site was not investigated due to its remote location and heavy snowfall. The Solomon Mountain pack was considered an Idaho pack but was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Superior (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied by Montana in 2007. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Suspected Resident Packs

Bathtub Mountain

Persistent observations and reports by IDFG personnel, outfitters, and sportsmen indicated the presence of a wolf pack in the vicinity of Bathtub Mountain along the divide between the upper St. Joe River and the Little North Fork Clearwater River. Bathtub Mountain is approximately 5 miles (8 km) northeast of Snow Peak, the identifying landmark of the Snow Peak wolf pack that existed in the late 1990s. Future monitoring will be required to determine the status of this suspected pack.

Kootenai Peak

Persistent observations and reports by IDFG personnel, Bureau of Land Management and WS' personnel, and sportsmen indicate the presence of a wolf pack in the vicinity of Kootenai Peak, approximately 10 miles (16 km) northeast of St. Maries, Idaho, along the divide between the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River and the St. Joe River. Hunters reported observing wolf sign in Pine Creek, Latour Creek, Rochat Creek, and near Boise Peak. Personnel from the Bureau of Land Management reported, and IDFG personnel verified, wolf sign in Latour and Rochat Creeks. Wildlife Services' personnel observed 2 wolves in Hells Gulch and wolf sign in Willow Creek. Future monitoring will be required to determine the status of this suspected pack.

Other Documented Wolf Groups

B212

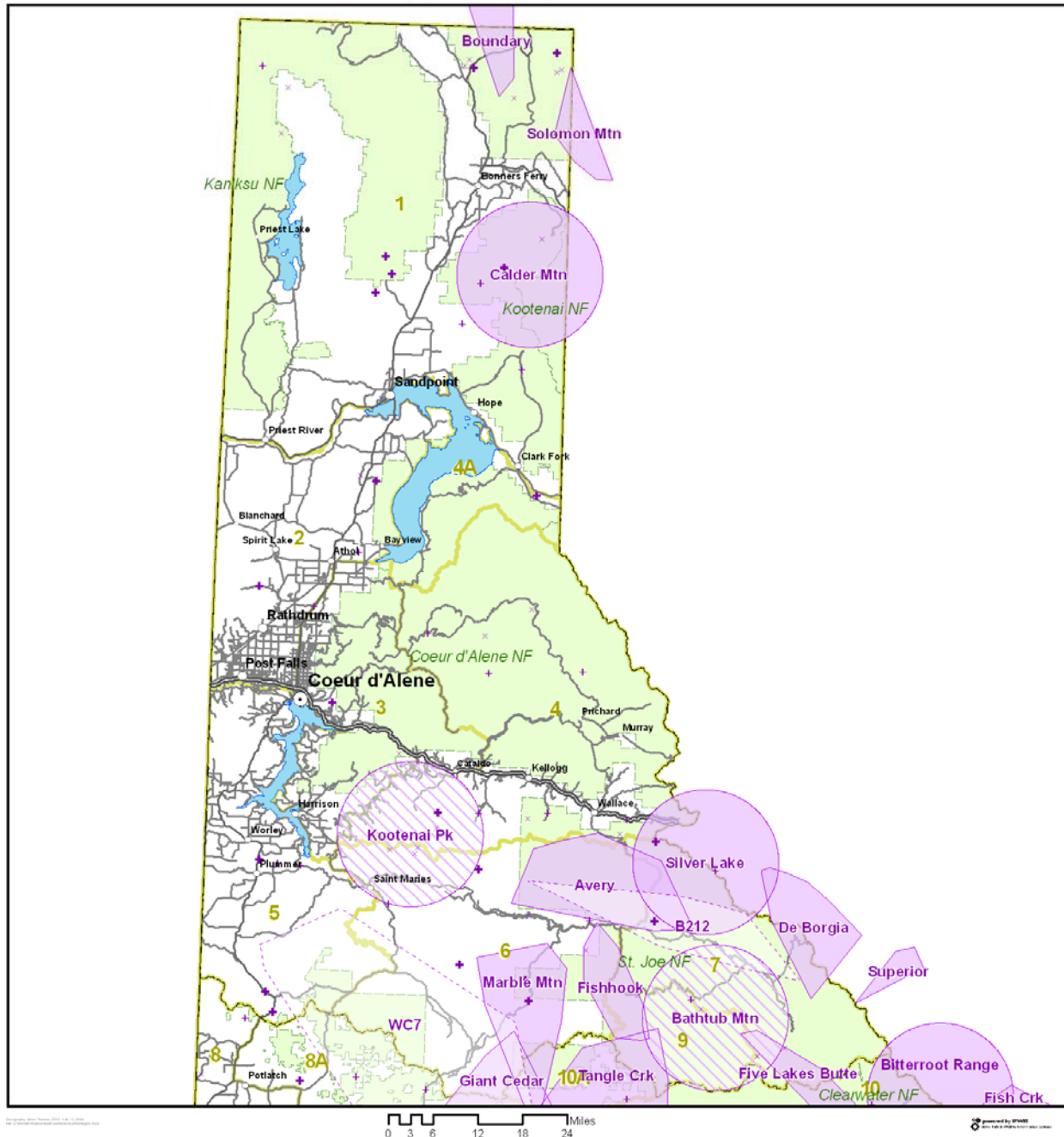
Lone wolf B212 (dispersing female from the Five Lakes Butte pack) was last located in September near Shefoot Mountain along the North Fork St. Joe River. Future monitoring will be required to determine the status of this radio-marked wolf.

2007 Panhandle Region Wolf Activity

Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations

2006-07 Telemetry and Research-based Locations * 2007 Estimated Locations (Not Telemetry-based)** 2007 Public Observations ***

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  Documented Pack |  Documented Pack |  Multiple Wolves Observed |
|  Documented Group (Less than 4 animals) |  Documented Group (Pair or Group less than 4 animals) |  Single Wolf Sighted |
|  Documented Lone Wolf |  Suspected Pack |  Not Specified |
| |  Terminated Group | |



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Services and the National Park Service. Pack locations are minimum convex polygons of telemetry and research observations for radiocollared wolves from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2007 with outliers removed. Packs which did not exist in 2007 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2007.

*** Public Observations from 1/1/2007 - 12/31/2007 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Figure 6. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Panhandle Region, 2007.

Table 2. Minimum number of wolves detected, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs and other wolf groups within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Panhandle Region, 2007.

Wolf group ^a	Min. no. wolves detected ^b	Reproductive status			Documented mortalities				Known dispersal	Monitoring status			Confirmed & (probable) wolf-caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod. (died) ^c	Reported as							Active radio collars	No. wolf captures ^h	No. wolves missing ⁱ			
			reprod. pack	breeding pair ^d	Natural	Control ^e	Other human ^f	Unknwn ^g							
DOCUMENTED PACK															
Avery	5	1(1)	YES	NO	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Boundary (ID) ^j	5	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calder Mtn (ID) ^j	4	1	YES	NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De Borgia (MT) ^j															
Fishhook	8	2	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Five Lakes Butte	?	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marble Mountain	5	1	YES	NO	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
Silver Lake (MT) ^j															
Solomon Mtn (ID) ^j	8	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Superior (MT) ^j															
Tangle Creek	2	?	NO	NO	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	37	5(1)			0	0	2	2	2	7	2	0	0	0	0
SUSPECTED PACK															
Bathtub Mountain	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kootenai Peak	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER DOCUMENTED GROUP															
B212 ^k	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
UNKNOWN															
	?				0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	0	0			0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REGIONAL TOTAL	37	5(1)			0	0	3	2	2	7	2	1	0	0	0

^a Documented pack = territorial groups of wolves usually consisting of an adult male and female and their offspring from one or more generations, and has the potential to reproduce (2 adults of opposite sex). Suspected pack = geographic areas where wolf pack presence was suspected but not verified, or where wolf presence was verified but did not meet documented pack status. Other documented group = verified groups not meeting either documented or suspected pack status (e.g., lone wolves, potential mated pairs, etc.). Unknown = geographic areas where wolf presence was previously unverified and/or no data on group status was known.

^b Summing this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^c Number in parentheses indicates known pup mortality; pup mortalities tallied in the appropriate column in DOCUMENTED MORTALITIES.

^d Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and a female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

^e Includes agency lethal control and legal take.

Table 2. Continued.

^f Includes all other human-related deaths.

^g Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

^h Includes wolves captured for monitoring purposes during 2007. Most, but not all, were radiocollared.

ⁱ Radiocollared wolves that became missing in 2007.

^j Border pack officially tallied to (STATE); territory known/likely shared with Idaho. Data on these packs can be found in Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery 2007 Annual Report; data for mortalities and/or depredations by non-Idaho border packs that occurred within Idaho are presented here.

^k B212 moved into the Panhandle Region from the Clearwater Region and was monitored in the former until October 2007.